

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 10, 1995

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-17-95

TO: ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT) PROGRAM

REFERENCE: Title 42, United States Code Service, Section 1396d(r)

The Children and Family Services Division (CFSD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is concerned that children in out-of-home care are not receiving mental health screens and services to which they are entitled under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program provision in Title 42, United States Code Services (USCS), Section 1396d(r). The purpose of this program is to prevent disease and disabilities through early detection, diagnosis and treatment to the Medicaid eligible population under 21 years of age.

Eligible EPSDT recipients are entitled to periodic comprehensive health screens provided at intervals which meet reasonable standards of medical and dental practice, as determined by the State, and at other intervals indicated as medically necessary. At a minimum, these assessments must include, but are not limited to:

- (1) comprehensive health and developmental history (including assessment of both physical and mental health development),
- (2) comprehensive unclothed physical examination,
- (3) appropriate immunizations according to age and health history,
- (4) laboratory tests,
- (5) health education (including anticipatory guidance), and
- (6) dental examinations and vision and hearing tests.

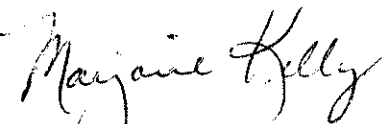
In California the State Department of Health Services (SDHS) administers the EPSDT provision under two programs. The early periodic screening portion is administered under the state-mandated Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program and the diagnosis and treatment portion is administered by the Medi-Cal Program.

As the result of litigation, Emergency Regulations (R-14-93E) were filed by SDHS to implement the EPSDT program in California according to the Health Care Financing Administration's interpretation of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. The SDHS Medi-Cal Program in conjunction with Children's Medical Services are responsible for these emergency regulations and plan to inform all affected parties of the procedures for services. The CDSS is committed to working with SDHS in an effort to increase access to services for children. In the interim, questions regarding these regulations should be directed to the State Department of Health Services, Office of Regulations, 714 P Street, Room 1000, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA 94234-7320.

In addition, CDSS plans to work with SDHS and the California Department of Mental Health in identifying and resolving issues surrounding the provision of mental health screens and services to eligible recipients. CDSS supports the development and implementation of a reliable mental health screening instrument. As you may be aware, Ventura County's Department of Mental Health is currently developing a mental health screening tool for children funded through a private grant provided by the Casey Foundation.

Questions regarding CHDP should be directed to the CHDP program in your local health department. Questions regarding diagnosis and treatment should be directed to your local Medi-Cal field office as the means to access needed mental health services for children.

If you have any questions regarding this All-County Information Notice, please contact Theresa Sanchez of the Child Welfare Services Bureau at (916) 445-2806.



MARJORIE KELLY
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division